S. Amer.

Brazil

BEYOND THE PANAMA

BUENOS AIRES

Buenos Aires

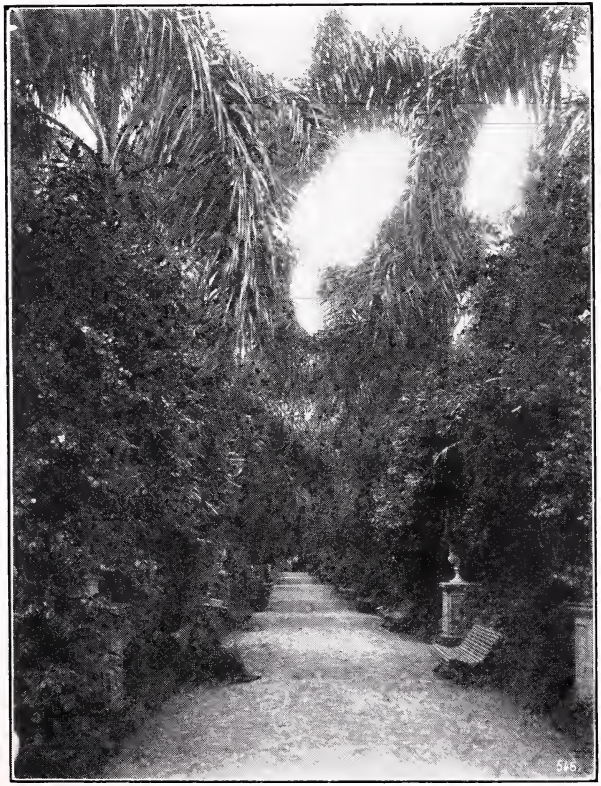
The city is the metropolis of Argentina, having a population of one and a half millions, and is the Key City of South America. It is one of the most progressive cities of the American continent. Electric street car lines lead to all parts of the city. The busy wharves despatch millions of tons of merchandise.

Agentina

The republic of Argentina has been known as the land of the pampas. With its untold herds of cattle it feeds the markets of the nations and produces leather which sustains the tread of many peoples afar off. It has wheat enough to supply the whole world. Besides this, the snow-capped mountains produce abundant mineral wealth. 20,402 miles of railroad are built, leading to all parts of the nation, and climbing their way across the Andes to the western coast of Chile. The natural features produce beauty unsurpassed in the world; the waterfalls rank with those of Africa and North America in wonder.

Races

The peoples of Argentina are many. Gathered in Buenos Aires are representatives of thirty nations. Among those from abroad are English, German, Italian, American, Scandinavian, Spanish and French. The Spaniards were the earlier settlers of the country and their language is the most universally used. English is now commercially popular and educated people employ French much in intercourse. In addition to the races mentioned,



A Vista in a City Park

there is a considerable population of the original inhabitants—the South American Indians.

Patriotism

Originally a country of large landholders, the Spaniards were accustomed to a paternal life whose intellectual ideal found its expression in study of the professions. British merchants and later, Germans in large numbers, made extensive investments in mines and railroads and now have large interests in the commercial activities of the nation. In Argentina, as in all the countries of the world, there is at present developing a strong national consciousness which is bringing the Argentines—that is, those born in Argentina—into the places of power and influence. A compulsory military service includes

Cathedral

all Argentine citizens. The trend in educational lines is to employ Argentine teachers.

Social

The social life in South American cities cannot be defined as dissimilar from that of European society elsewhere. Matters of dress and custom are very analogous to those of the Northern hemisphere and there exist only the variations due to latitude and a rapidly evolving citizenship peculiar to South America. Allegiance to the established church is nominal. Social life, owing to the laxity in personal moral fiber, is much restricted. Chaperonage of young people is insisted upon, and the lack of sound teaching underlying the social structure is much deplored.

Education

One of the chief sources of the rapid and splendid development in Buenos Aires has been the extent of the educational movement, there being many government schools,

Miss Cortez, Secretary

public and private schools numbering 572, a large women's normal school and an admission of women to the university courses. In Argentina one-tenth of the total national expenditure is for education. The oldest university was founded in 1614. The curriculum of the universities is exacting and of a high standard. There are English schools for girls in Buenos Aires.

Business Conditions

The rapidity of material progress has led to the employment of a large number of women in shops and offices. There is a demand also for teaching in families and select schools, consequently a large number of women are attracted from Europe and even from the United States to enter these openings. The noon hour is of two hours' duration, at

which time the shops are locked and young women are obliged to find a place for recreation outside the place of employment. It is rare for a shop in Buenos Aires to have a rest room for its employees.

Young Women's Christian Association

The organization was established in 1890 by the British ladies resident in the port. With the coming of large numbers of foreign young women to Argentina ignorant of the perils of life in a strange country and in need of friendly counsel and safe environment, it was decided to reorganize the work on a larger scale. The first American secretary was Miss E. Jean Batty who was sent in 1906, supported by the Associations of Minneapolis, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

Reading and Rest Room

Encouragement

Since the opening of the work, business men, consuls, rail-

road authorities, doctors and clergymen, ship companies, steamship officials, all have referred to the Association as an agency to direct young women who have come under their observation. The work planned originally for foreign young women is now being appreciated by those of the country, and two Spanish speaking secretaries are employed in the work for Spanish speaking women.

Difficulties

Being a city of rapid growth and up-to-date progress, Buenos Aires is also a city of high prices, and the Young Women's Christian Association was forced to begin in a small way with rooms for only six or eight boarders, but the growth has been

Cooking Class—Ten Nationalities

steady and today it occupies a house of thirty-four rooms which will accommodate thirty-three residents and a number of transient guests. The budget for the present year involves an expenditure of $26,000 (gold), which is raised in Buenos Aires, the support of the American secretaries only being supplied by America.

Activities

The membership of the Association includes 550 women and subscribers. There is a regular Sunday afternoon meeting, as well as a large group who belong to the daily Bible Reading League. Evening classes are difficult because the young women find it inconvenient to be away from home in the evening. Classes in Spanish, in cooking, in English, French, and First Aid, constitute the educational work, while an employment agency received over 1,000 applications from employers and employees during the past year. The noon lunch, meeting the needs of the young women from the shops, has grown to a clientele of over one hundred. A larger staff of secretaries is greatly needed for the growing work and a permanent building in the near future is imperative.

National Board
Young Womens Christian Association of the United States
600 Lexington Avenue, New York City
1914